

Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd

Minutes of 19th Annual General Meeting of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd, 13 December 2001, Rustlers, Royal Block, Plummer Avenue, Royal Melbourne Showgrounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale.

PRESENT:

Avoca District Co-operative Ltd (Tony O'Shea)

Co-operative Development Services Ltd (Tony Gill)

Co-operative Energy Ltd (David Griffiths)

Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd (Val Ogier)

Demo Dairy Co-operative Ltd (Niel Black)

NEREP Co-operative Ltd (Anne Shaw)

Northcote Rental Housing Co-operative Ltd (Greg Moloney)

North East Telecommunications Co-operative Ltd (Peter Jamieson)

Ruach Community Co-operative Ltd (Roy Bradley)

Skills.Net Association Co-operative Ltd (Tony Redmond)

South East Housing Co-operative Ltd (Shirley Faram)

Urban Camp Melbourne Co-operative Ltd (Patrick O'Sullivan)

YCW Co-operative Society Ltd (John Luckman)

APOLOGIES:

Geelong Radio Cabs Co-operative Ltd

Genetics Australia Co-operative Ltd

Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co. Ltd

Primeat Co-operative Ltd

Pyrenees Hay Processors Co-operative Ltd

Pyrenees Store Co-operative Ltd.

Terang & District Co-operative Society Ltd

The Executive Officer reported that the Chairman held proxies for the following co-operatives:

Active Learning & Communications Co-operative Ltd

Architeam Co-operative Ltd

Herd Improvement Co-operative (Maffra) Ltd

North East Flower Growers Co-operative Ltd

Rupnorth Co-operative Ltd

Southern Agricultural Producers Co-operative Ltd

Southern Energy Co-operative Ltd

St. Albans Community Centre Co-operative Ltd

He also reported that the delegate from Avoca and District Co-operative Ltd held two proxies:

Pyrenees Hay Processors Co-operative Ltd

Pyrenees Store Co-operative Ltd.

The Chairman said that the agenda had placed the ordinary resolution before the election of directors and that the agenda needed to be amended to include ratification of the minutes of the Special General Meeting on 11 October 2001.

He said that legal advice was that it was correct procedure to ratify the agenda through a procedural vote.

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Moved: North East Telecommunications Co-operative Ltd

Seconded: Avoca District Co-operative Ltd

The Chairman called for a card vote and declared the resolution carried.

Co-operative Development Services Ltd proposed that the motion to receive the financial reports was seconded by The Western Victoria Dairy Research & Development Farm Co-operative Ltd and not moved as stated in the minutes. Co-operative Development Services Ltd also objected to the legality of the resolution regarding member subscriptions.

The Chairman accepted the proposed amendment on the seconding of the financial reports but ruled that, irrespective of the issue of legality, the resolution was correctly passed at the meeting and recorded.

That the minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting held on 18 December 2000 be confirmed as a true and accurate record as amended and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman called for a card vote and declared the resolution passed.

Minutes Special General Meeting

Co-operative Development Services Ltd proposed that under Rules there should be commas after rules 7 and 9 instead of full stops and that it should be rule 24 instead of rule 254 and that Rule 38 clause (5) should have the number 5 deleted from "these."

The Chairman thanking Co-operative Development Services Ltd agreed to the amendments and put the motion to the vote:

That the minutes of the Special General Meeting of the 11 October 2001 be confirmed as a true and accurate record as amended and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman called for a card vote and declared the resolution carried.

Annual Report

The Chairman briefly presented the Annual Report emphasizing the importance³ on focusing on what the Federation had achieved – rather than what had not been achieved. He also acknowledged the contribution of the Executive Officer.

Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd objected that the attendance record of their candidate at board meetings had been understated and that the delegate had attended three and not one of six meetings.

In response to queries from Co-operative Development Services Ltd and Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd, the Chairman said that to achieve a balanced budget for 2001/02 the board would have to cut expenditure on current income and expenditure trends.

Auditor, Financial and Directors Reports

That the reports from the board, auditor and officers of the Federation upon the transactions of the Federation during the 2000/01 financial year including the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Account and state of affairs for the year ending 30 June 2001 be received.

Moved: North East Telecommunications Co-operative Ltd

Seconded: Avoca District Co-operative Ltd.

After a brief debate, the Chairman called for a card vote and declared the resolution carried.

Remuneration of Directors

That Directors do not receive any remuneration as Directors for the 2001/02 financial year.

MOVED: Co-operative Development Services Ltd

SECONDED: Northcote Rental Housing Co-operative Ltd

The Chairman called for a card vote and declared the resolution carried.

Annual Subscriptions

That the membership annual subscription levels for the financial year 2001/02 remain at existing levels with the exception that the current minimum membership subscription of \$50 be increased to \$100 with the provision that for its first year of membership a co-operative on the minimum subscription level will pay a 50% subscription of \$50.

MOVED: Avoca District Co-operative Society Ltd

SECONDED: North East Telecommunications Co-operative Ltd.

Co-operative Development Services Ltd proposed an amendment with the deletion of the words "with the provision that for its first year of membership a co-operative on a minimum subscription level will pay a 50% subscription of \$50."

The Chairman asked Avoca and District Co-operative Ltd whether it would accept the amendment and Avoca agreed.

The Chairman called for a card vote and declared the resolution carried.

Ordinary Resolution

That the board of directors of the Federation be censured for seeking to damage the credibility of Co-operative Development Services Ltd with the Victorian Government.

MOVED: Co-operative Development Services Ltd

SECONDED: Urban Camp Melbourne Co-operative Ltd

After debate the North East Telecommunications Co-operative Ltd called for a poll and this was supported by more than four other co-operatives and the Chairman called for a poll by card vote.

The Chairman called for a vote and declared the ordinary resolution defeated by a 3/16 vote with three abstentions.

In responding to comments from Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd, Northcote Rental Housing Co-operative Ltd and the Urban Camp Melbourne Co-operative Ltd the Chairman observed that the process initiated by the board to address the differences with Co-operative Development Services Ltd had resulted in polarized views of what had been agreed between the two parties by the two parties. He suggested that both co-operatives needed to address this.

Election

The Chairman said that the Returning Officer would now conduct the vote. He invited each candidate to briefly address the meeting in the order they appeared on the ballot paper. Each candidate briefly addressed the meeting:

Black, I. Neil

Gill, Tony

Griffiths, David

O'Shea, Tony

Redmond, Tony

The Chairman asked the Returning Officer to distribute the ballot papers.

Co-operative Development Services Ltd objected to the Returning Office determining that the candidates should appear on the ballot paper in alphabetical order referring to Rule 40 (1) that specified that the ballot for election of directors must be conducted at the annual general meeting in the manner that the board directs.

The Chairman advised that this had occurred – that the board had determined that there would be a vote by ballot paper at the AGM with the names of all candidates on the ballot paper and that the Returning Office would determine whether the candidates would appear on the ballot paper in alphabetical order/

The YCW Co-operative Society Ltd moved that the candidates on the ballot paper be listed in alphabetical order and this was seconded by the North East Telecommunications Co-operative Ltd.

The Chairman put the resolution to the meeting, called for a card vote and declared the resolution carried.

Co-operative Development Services Ltd objected to proxy votes being used in the election.

The Chairman advised that the Rules allowed this, that verbal advice from the Federation's Solicitor was that this was legal and he called on the Returning Officer to proceed with the ballot.

Victorian Co-operation News

While the ballots were being counted, the Chairman invited comments on Victorian Co-operative News and National Co-op Update.

There was a brief discussion on the future of VCN and the possibility of an email version.

The Chairman called for an indicative vote on whether co-operative delegates and others in attendance would read an email version of VCN and declared that a significant number of those present indicated that they would read the email version.

Election Results

The Returning Officer reported that David Griffiths and Niel Black had been elected. He noted that no appeal had been lodged.

General Business

The Chairman asked whether there were any items of general business and in the absence of a response he closed the meeting.

Prepared by David Griffiths 14 December 2001

Checked by Graeme Charles and corrected 21 December 2001

Minutes subject to ratification by a member meeting.